

# **\*\*BO TALES\*\***

Vol. 2 No. 2

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ORIGINAL HOBO NICKEL SOCIETY

Fall 1993

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the Original Hobo Nickel Society has been growing by leaps and bounds. We now have 118 members from 30 states. Many joined the club during the A.N.A.'s Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs after seeing a great slide presentation on Hobo Nickels by Bill "Zemo" Fivaz (CLM#1). They also viewed an unusual exhibit of Hobo Nickels - both original and "neo-bos" (modern hobo nickel replicas), pictures and related items put together by the members in attendance. The famous "box car" nickel and the actual tools that were used by "Bo" were the highlights of this display.

## **TIME TO RENEW!**

Well, not quite yet, but very soon. January is renewal month. Please look at the label on this newsletter. Your membership number is at the top. If your dues have been paid through 1994, there will be a -94 after your number. If you don't see it then please fill in the renewal form in this issue and mail with a check made out to O.H.N.S. in the amount of \$10.00 to:

Original Hobo Nickel Society  
Attention: "Bo-ette"  
P.O. Box 43  
Malvern, PA 19355

## **TEE SHIRTS**

We have Tee shirts available for sale to club members. These are high quality 50% cotton and 50% polyester shirts with the name of the club and a picture of the "Bo" by "Bo" cameo nickel pictured above and on your membership card. The shirt is grey with teal green silk screening. The prices are as follows:

**\*\*Size L - \$12.00**

**\*\*Size XL - \$13.50**

(only a few XL left)

The club's scholarship fund will receive the profit from every shirt sold.

## **SCHOLARSHIP WINNER**

The winner of our first annual Y.N. scholarship to the A.N.A. Summer Conference was 16 year old high school junior Amy Ng from Sugarland Texas. She is a member of the A.N.A., The Greater Houston Coin Club and The Clements Coin Club (C3) and is publisher of their newsletter.

She has exhibited buffalo nickels, winning first place at the 36th annual Greater Houston Coin Club Money Show. She has both spoken and written articles for her local club.

Amy is involved in many activities outside numismatics as well including: Youth Fellowship at her church; the rifle team; colorguard; Junior Achievement; Global Awareness; and French Club. She also takes Russian lessons and plays the viola in the school orchestra. Sounds like Amy keeps herself very busy!

At the Summer Conference, Amy took the Grading Course. During the graduation banquet, Amy spoke on behalf of all the Y.N.'s thanking the adult chaperons and the Director of Education - our own James "Dictator" Taylor. We are proud to have sponsored such a fine young person and hope that she will set the pace for many to follow in the years ahead.

## **IN THIS ISSUE.....**

**EDITOR WARE RESIGNS**

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

**AUTHENTICATION PROGRAM GETS THE GO AHEAD**

## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

### ***A.N.A. Summer Conference***

As we begin our second year, the Original Hobo Nickel Society has truly accomplished a great deal. Since that first meeting in July a year ago when a handful of you sat down and organized the goals and objectives of a society that was just a dream at that point, lots of great things have happened. In just one year, you accomplished the goal of sponsoring a YN scholarship so that a deserving young numismatist could attend the ANA Summer Conference in Colorado Springs. During the same period of time, our membership went from a handful to over one hundred. Of course, such accomplishments could not have been done without a lot of hard work and sacrifice on the part of many members. I feel fortunate to be associated with such an outstanding group of numismatists. If it were not for your individual efforts, we would not be where we are today.

### ***Authentication Program***

One of the important goals that we had set for the society was the establishment of a certification program that would allow you to get an expert's opinion as to the authenticity of your original hobo nickels. During the board of directors' meeting held at the annual ANA Summer Conference, the board approved the authentication committee's recommendation that we move forward on such a program. Bill Fivaz and Del Romines have graciously consented to be our certification staff. At this point, both of them are hard at work developing a standard operating procedure that will insure consistency and high standards regardless of which of them certifies the submission. A certification form for your submission to either authenticator will be available shortly. The form will contain complete submission instructions, as well as fee information.

Speaking of the annual ANA Summer Conference, those of you who attended this year will agree with me that it was an experience to remember. If you haven't been, I highly recommend that you give serious consideration to attending next year (July 9-15, 1994). During this year's conference, our own Bill (Zemo) Fivaz put on a "Hobo Extravaganza." His presentation included three separate hobo nickel slide and tape shows. The presentation was a highlight of the week and was responsible for attracting more than a few new members.

### ***Free Hobo Nickels***

In past columns, I've made a case for getting out in the community and giving hobo nickel talks - primarily from the standpoint of attracting new members. However, I've discovered an additional benefit associated with speaking on hobos - free hobo nickels. I recently gave a talk to an AARP chapter. A couple of days later an elderly gentleman approached me in a coffee shop and asked if I was the individual who gave the talk. When I told him that it was me, he handed me a very nice original hobo nickel and said that it was mine because he wanted to give it to someone who would appreciate it. He had obtained it in change at his gas station some 35-40 years ago and had kept it in his desk drawer ever since. So, get out and give a talk - you may be as lucky as I was and pick up a hobo nickel for your efforts.

### ***ELECTIONS***

Our annual meeting and election of officers is not too far down the road. A nomination committee, consisting of three members has been appointed. Members are Pete "Picker"

LaComb, Chairperson, Don "H2O" Haley, and Ed "Baldy" Filipkowski. The field is wide open and if you would like to serve, the nominating committee would love to hear from you. Pete's address is: Peter LaComb, P.O. Box 5354, Jacksonville, FL 32247. Per our constitution, the nominating committee, as a group of three members, can nominate candidates, plus any three members may nominate a candidate for office, providing the candidate's written acceptance and agreement to serve accompanies the nomination. Our game plan is to have a ballot to you not later than the end of November. The election committee will tally the votes at the annual meeting at FUN and the results will be announced at that time. In the event of a tie, the Board of Directors will vote to determine the winner.

### ***Baltimore Convention***

Those of you in attendance at the ANA Convention in Baltimore no doubt noticed the society table that was organized and set up by Bo-ette and Zemo. We owe them a vote of thanks for a lot of hard work. Congratulations are also in order for Bo-ette, as she was awarded a ribbon for her hobo nickel exhibit at the convention.

### ***EDITOR RESIGNS***

Finally, it is with deep regret that I must report to you that Billy "Critter" Ware is ill and unable to continue with his responsibilities as editor of Bo-Tales. I'm sure that all of you join me in wishing Billy the very best. We thank him for all his past efforts on behalf of the club and especially his work as editor of Bo-Tales. Best wishes and expressions of concern may be sent to Billy as follows: Billy F. Ware, P.O. Box 37, Boonsboro, MD 21713. He would love to hear from you.

Dallas "Colonel" Shaw

## **Life Membership Reduced**

During the annual Board of Directors meeting in Colorado it was decided that we would close the Charter Life Memberships. Life Memberships are available for \$250.00 - BUT for the 1994 year, life memberships will be **\$150.00**. This is a marvelous opportunity to show your support for the Original Hobo Nickel Club, and for the programs that we promote:

1. YN Scholarship Fund
2. Authentication Service
3. Newsletter
4. Education
5. Fun

## **HOBO BOOKS**

We have just a couple of Del Romines' books on Hobo Nickels left. They are \$25.00 each with \$15.00 of that going to the Y.N. Scholarship Fund. Please send a check to:

O.H.N.S.  
Attention "Bo-ette"  
P.O. Box 43  
Malvern, PA 19355.

## **MORE ON BALTIMORE....**

Three of our junior members deserve special recognition for their accomplishments at the A.N.A.'s Convention during August. Vicken "The Jersey Kid" Yegparian won YN Best of Show for his excellent exhibit on doubled dies. He also took a first place with an exhibit titled "Corrupting the King's Copper" - about counterfeits and imitations of George III British copper.

John "Junior" Kraljevich Jr. was selected "Most Outstanding

Young Numismatist" and received FOUR first place exhibit awards.

Rian "St. Louie Slim" Thum had three exhibits - all of which won awards! He exhibited numismatic literature, varieties (rim cuds) and medals. Quite a well rounded young collector!

All three of these YNs also attended the ANA Summer Conference in Colorado Springs on full scholarships. Vicken and John took the course on British coinage and Rian took the course on Seated Liberty coinage.

## **CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

There were a lot of Hobos in attendance at the convention, most of which not only stopped by the Hobo table to visit and show off coins that they had just purchased, but also helped man the table. We answered a lot of questions from people that had never seen hobo nickels before, and visited with some that had been collecting for years. It was nice to put names with faces, and to introduce new collectors to the club. Bill "Zemo" Fivaz was able to help many of our visitors determine whether their hobo nickels were original or neo-bos (modern).

Other members that helped with the table included: Don "Bert" Farnsworth, Dallas "Colonel" Shaw, J.T. "Bubba" Stanton, Wayne "5 o'clock" Sherbert, John "Junior" Kraljevich, Vicken "The Jersey Kid" Yegparian, Rian "St. Louie Slim" Thum, Judy "Yellow Rose" Mathern, and Gail "Bo-ette" Kraljevich. Thank you to all who helped! And welcome to the 12 new members.

## **RECENT FINDS**

There were quite a few nice hobo nickels sold at the Baltimore convention, and several at shows since, but the one that stands out in my mind wasn't even a nickel! One lucky collector snatched up a great hobo Indian cent! For those of you that saw the exhibit of hobos at the club table, including the newly acquired cent, I'm sure that you enjoyed the variety.

We would like to hear about and see pictures of your favorite hobo nickel. Perhaps some of you have nickels with unique histories, or pedigrees and, as the temporary editor of this newsletter becomes more familiar with this computer program, and has a wee bit more time, she would love to print YOUR stories, and pictures. Please send them to:

O.H.N.S.  
Att: "Bo-ette"  
P.O. Box 43  
Malvern, PA 19355

## **OFFICERS.....**

At the annual meeting in Colorado Springs Gail "Bo-ette" Kraljevich agreed to assume the role of secretary in addition to her role as treasurer of O.H.N.S. after Billy "Critter" Ware announced that he could no longer continue in that capacity due to deteriorating health. At that time Billy was to continue as Editor of Bo-Tales. Since then he has resigned from this position also, therefore, Bo-ette has agreed to temporarily edit the newsletter. PLEASE NOTE: The official address of O.H.N.S. is: The Original Hobo Nickel Society

P.O. Box 43  
Malvern, PA 19355



## Del Romines Writes...

Over the past many years of Hobo Nickel research, I have become involved in numerous related areas. (One of these areas is) the "Hobo Foundation" which is located in Britt, Iowa, the home of the annual Hobo Convention.

The foundation has established a museum which is open to the public, and one which I would highly recommend for the collectors (of Hobo Nickels) to visit if they are ever out that way. The museum will continue growing not only with Hobo History and Memorabilia, but it does have a section which pertains to the Hobo Nickels which I hope will grow also. Only time will tell.

I would also like to inform the members that a children's book is being written in Oklahoma which has a chapter on Hoboes to include Hobo Nickels. If and when the book is published, I will notify the club. The book will contain some photographs which were taken by Bill Fivaz, and were supplied by me to the author. The photographs may be some which were in (my) first book, or may be some from (my) new book. A large selection of photographs were sent, and they choose the ones they want. They were also given permission by me to use as much material from (my) book as they needed.

I hope that at least one member may be able to see the museum in Britt, and if they do, I respectfully request that a full report be given to the members.

Respectfully,  
Del "Slickrock" Romines

## Lester "Potty" Burzinski writes.....

I no longer collect hobo nickels, I graduated, I now collect potty dollars. Other collectables (that I am interested in) are communion tokens. If you ever run across any of either I will buy, if not already in my collection. (I) would welcome information on other collectors of either. I have duplicates of (communion tokens) only. Each potty dollar is unique.

Best of luck in '93

Les

(Lester may be contacted through O.H.N.S., P.O. Box 43, Malvern, PA 19355)

## From "The Big One" .... (Steve Alpert)

I took a survey of my collection, and came up with the following results. I didn't keep all (the hobo nickels) that I bought - I resold or traded many of the lower quality ones or ones I didn't like artistically. Maybe you could ask other members to make a similar survey of their collections, and publish the results. As you can see from my survey I didn't find a single fresh discovery myself - every nickel in my collection was previously owned by a dealer or collector.

Steve's Hobo Nickel Source Survey:

<u>source</u>	<u>quantity</u>
coin dealers	23
exonumia dealers	228
ex. collectors	79
coin collectors	3
auctions/mail bid	10
antique dealers	1

garage sales	0
flea markets	0
non-collectors	0
circulation	0
carvers	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>344</b>

*Editor note: Steve, have you tried AARP meetings? (see the presidents message!)*

Steve continues....

My book "Tokens and Medals" has a section on Hobo Nickels. If (the Society does not have a copy) let me know and I'll send you a complimentary copy, and hopefully you can include a brief review or mention of the book. (DONE - Ed.) Books are available from me for \$22.45 postpaid.

*Note from Editor.. (again) You may write Steve "The Big One" Alpert c/o O.H.N.S. P.O. Box 43, Malvern, PA 19355.*

*...and Steve - we would love the free copy ...!*

P.S. - Ad rates for Bo Tales are rather high for a small circulation publication like ours; most similar publications provide free classified ads to members and charge about half as much or less on display ads. Dues could be raised to about \$15.00 per year to compensate for free classified ads (max. 35 words or so) to facilitate trading amongst members, etc.

*Editor Note: Thanks, Steve. Members, your comments please!*

**BO TALES welcomes letters!**

Please send to:

EDITOR: O.H.N.S.  
P.O. Box 43  
Malvern, PA 19355

# THE ORIGINAL HOBO NICKEL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 43  
MALVERN, PA 19355

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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 1994

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

MONIKER (NICKNAME) \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ LIFE MEMBER ..... \$150.00

\_\_\_\_\_ REGULAR MEMBER (ONE YEAR) ..... \$10.00

\_\_\_\_\_ YOUTH MEMBER (UNDER 19 YEARS OF AGE) ..... \$5.00

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: THE ORIGINAL HOBO NICKEL SOCIETY

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SEND TO: O.H.N.S.  
ATTENTION: "BO-ETTE"  
P.O. BOX 43  
MALVERN, PA 19355

## YOUR BOARD.....

President ..... Dallas "Colonel" Shaw  
Vice President ..... Bill "Zemo" Fivaz  
Secretary/Treasurer ..... Gail "Bo-ette" Kraljevich  
Sergeant-At-Arms ..... Chuck "Buddha" Irwin  
Editor, Bo Tales .....

Honorary Vice President ..... Del "Slick" Romines

## COMMITTEES.....

Nomination ..... Pete "Picker" LaComb  
Don "H2O" Haley  
Ed "Baldy" Filipowski

Authentication ..... Bill "Zemo" Fivaz  
Del "Slickrock" Romines

Education ..... Don "Bert" Farnsworth

Publicity ..... Richard "Paladin" Schemmer

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## **\*\*BO TALES\*\***

*The Newsletter of the...*

**ORIGINAL HOBO NICKEL SOCIETY**

P.O. BOX 43

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